

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528Homeland
Security

January 28, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT AND OFFICE HEADS

FROM: Kristi Noem
SecretarySUBJECT: **Direction on Grants to Non-governmental Organizations**

Over the last four years, the Department of Homeland Security has spent billions of dollars funding illegal immigration. Much of this funding was given to non-profit organizations, which purported to provide a variety of services to illegal aliens. Effective immediately, all Department grant disbursements and assessments of grant applications that: (a) go to non-profit organizations or for which non-profit organizations are eligible, and (b) touch in any way on immigration, are on hold pending review, except to the extent required by controlling legal authority.

The reasons for this freeze include (1) concerns that these grants may be funding illegal activities, such as encouraging or inducing illegal immigration, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iv), or illegal harboring of illegal aliens, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)–(iii); (2) concerns that there may be racially discriminatory language in certain grants; and (3) concerns that these grants may not be an efficient use of government resources.

Within 7 days, each component shall provide a report to the Undersecretary for Management with a summary of every grant covered by this memorandum and its status. Also within 7 days, any component that invokes the exception above for grants required by controlling legal authority must obtain the express written consent of the General Counsel or his delegate. Finally, within 7 days, the chief counsel of each component shall provide a report to the General Counsel regarding all available legal tools to investigate whether grantees have or are using Department grant funds for illegal purposes, including any statutory, regulatory, or contractual authority to request or demand documents.

The Department is committed to allocating grant funds in a manner that will achieve maximum effectiveness for the intended purposes and in fulfillment of the Department's statutory mission. This hold does not in any way apply to disbursement of essential disaster relief funds, but it does apply to the Shelter and Services Program, and any similar program.